



## FOREWORD

In this, our second issue of BAON since becoming its editors, we are amazed by the sheer variety of possible stories, of the many different roads we can explore relevant to our twin themes of conservation and heritage. Our first focus is on three gardens, in all their splendor: a small rose garden created in a public park by a retired couple in Idaho; a personal "garden of Eden," years in the making, surrounding the home of two rosarians in the mountains of south India; and in Japan a major garden of modern and heritage roses, created over a fifty-year period and destroyed overnight in the Fukushima reactor explosion in 2011, and how it still lives on in memory. Another interest to explore is what does a rose-breeder actually "do"? A French rose-creator details for us his thirty-year experience with species rambler roses, both the failures and successes. At the 2013 International Heritage Rose Conference in Sangerhausen we were enchanted by the presentation on Finland's historic roses, and thought then this is something that should have wider distribution. Finally, a personal *In Memoriam* for the great *rosieriste* André Eve who died in August at Pithiviers in Central France.

It is a big and diverse rose world, and we depend on BAON readers and friends to send us ideas for authors or subjects, or articles already-written or published or, especially, their own newly-written articles, all of which will merit our most serious consideration. We are Nimet Monasterly-Gilbert and Alan Gilbert at: [alannimet@gmail.com](mailto:alannimet@gmail.com)

## IN THIS ISSUE . . .

FOREWORD, by the Editors	Page 1
"MY ADVENTURES IN RAMBLERS" by Dominique Massad, (France)	Page 2
"LOST GARDEN IN FUKUSHIMA" by Maya Moore (Japan)	Page 7
"AGAINST ALL ODDS: POTLACH, IDAHO" by Justine and Larry Landes (U.S.A.)	Page 12
"HISTORIC ROSES IN FINLAND" by Pirjo Rautio (Finland)	Page 15
"A ROSE GARDEN IN THE INDIAN SKIES" by Mia Gröndahl (Sweden)	Page 23
IN MEMORIAM: ANDRÉ EVE, 1931-2015	Page 28
DOSSIERS: Conferences, tours, WFRS	Page 30

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## **MY ADVENTURES IN RAMBLERS**

**By DOMINIQUE MASSAD**

Rambling roses have always fascinated me: their vigor, their exuberance and remarkable blooms. But in the 1980s there were no cultivated varieties that rebloomed and their range of colors was limited. At the time I was just beginning to hybridize roses, and I believed it would be interesting to develop new colorful varieties that would rebloom. I was, of course, well aware of the particular difficulties that these roses present. Rambling roses take several years to bloom, which slows down the breeding process. But I felt the game was "worth the candle". Other rose breeders having already worked with *Rosa gigantea*, I turned towards other species roses, namely *Rosa filipes*, *Rosa soulieana* and *Rosa helenae*.

### **Crosses using *Rosa filipes***

In 1981 I decided to hybridize this species having been seduced by 'Kiftgate' while visiting the L'Haÿ-les-Roses garden. Wishing to use the botanical variety, I did not start with 'Kiftgate', which is probably already a natural cross. Thanks to exchanges with several foreign botanical gardens, I was able to acquire seeds from the Beijing Botanical Garden. In the spring of 1982, the seeds were sown. From among those that germinated, I selected four which I planted in my parents' garden. Of the four planted, one died, but the surviving three showed marked differences.



One developed imposing branches, and as early as 1986 bloomed. Its large panicles of white blooms corresponded to the description of the type. Another each year set out spindling branches and did not bloom. The last had very shiny leaves but was sensitive to odium nor did it bloom. These different aspects have led me to believe that the original seeds were not those of the true species but the result of an uncontrolled natural hybridization. This would be confirmed by the results of further crosses.

(Photo of TOPFILS, "Acturus")

By 1987, I gave up using the latter two but continued with the first one that had bloomed. It became the male parent in several crosses I performed, using the following roses as the female: (A) 'Mme Laurette Messimy' x 'Albertine' which resulted in one of my first roses: 'Topaze' which is interesting because of its abundance of flowers and apple-scented perfume. (B) 'Rosabelle', a good blooming pink noisette which had erroneously been sold to me as being 'Le Vésuve'. (C) 'Sanguinea' a chinensis rose with large, blood-red, single petals blooms. The three crosses succeeded and were given, in order, the following names: TOPFIL, CHIFIL, and VESFIL.

In 1988, using the pollen of the initial *Rosa filipes* on a tea-noisette which had been sold to me as being 'Maréchal Niel' (but which turned out to be 'Rêve d'Or'), the resulting cross has been given the name MARFIL. The seeds resulting from the crosses made in 1987 and planted in 1988 grew to seedlings which I culled according to what most interested me.

The TOPFILs gave rise to two types of roses, those resembling *Rosa filipes*, and the others, 'Topaze'. In this first group and spared from being culled was a specimen with very shiny leaves that bloomed in 1991. Resembling 'Topaze', the blooms are salmon pink, the canes are rather rigid, and while not being a recurrent bloomer it is perfumed. It has been given the study name "Acturus" ( photo on previous page) and has not yet been put on the market. Another specimen with simple pale yellow blooms in corymb, non- recurrent but with remarkable foliage that is a matte green and very healthy. Its study name was "Souchon". While it has not been kept, it was used to hybridize with others before being discarded. The dwarf varieties of TOPFILs appeared very interesting as not only were they remontant but also highly scented. Unfortunately, they were virtually sterile, either as male or female parent, rendering them useless to back-cross with.

The CHIFILs in their initial crosses gave rise to six new plants that did not bloom the first year, but each possessed traits of *Rosa filipes*. CHIFIL 1 on the face of it had the most interesting potential with numerous sarmentose, slender branches which



could have qualified as a miniature rambler. The leaves were trifoliate. However, it never bloomed and was discarded. CHIFIL 2 has been conserved with the study name of "Céphée". A very twining rose with semi-double white tinged with pink blooms. It was put on the market in 2014 and given the name 'Thierry Simon de Kergunic' ( photo on left). CHIFIL 4 is similar to

"Céphée" but flowers later in the season and the corymbs have fewer blooms. It has been named "Almédia". CHIFIL 3, 5 and 6 were not retained as they did not possess enough interesting characteristics.

As for the VESFILs, in 1988 three seeds germinated and grew satisfactorily. In 1989 three additional seeds germinated but one soon died. Of the five remaining roses that bloomed in 1991 only one was kept and given the study name of "Edénia" (photo on right). It is fertile and its seeds germinate satisfactorily. A rose with strong development whose branches exceed six meters. The healthy leaves are shiny and red when young. The pink flower buds are pointed and open into a semi-double bloom of pale pink. It has yet to be put on the market.



Of the MARFILs, among the seeds sown, only one survived and my attention was drawn to its leaves as well as to the juvenile branches which remain crimson all spring. This trait is no doubt due to the female parent with a Tea origin. I had to wait until 1991 for it to bloom but my patience was rewarded for, although the turbinated blooms are small, they are held on large corymbs and are scented. It is to date, the loveliest of the series and was put on the market in 2008 with the name of 'Parc de Maupassant' ( photo on right). The original rose is planted in my garden and the longest branches are over eight meters long, smothering a nearby 'Albizia julibrissin'.



### ***Crosses using Rosa soulieana***

In this instance I did not begin with a botanical variety but with a hybrid of *Rosa soulieana* and *Rosa rubrifolia* which was obtained by Morris and released by Peter Beales in 1979 by the name of 'Sir Cedric Morris'. A very vigorous rose that, although it is not remontant, has simple blooms with little scent but 20 to 40 blooms are held on each panicle. The leaves are a slightly glaucous grey.

In 1992, I used it as a female with the following: (A) 'Mikado' a polyantha with semi double amber yellow blooms that pale as they age that was bred by Marc Guillot (on May 24th); (B) "Edénia", the *Rosa filipes* hybrid. (on May 24th & 26th); (C) 'Rose



Delacroix' also a hybrid of *R. filipes* which reblooms and that I will discuss later (on June 20th). *Rosa soulieana* was used as male to cross with "Edénia" (on May 20th). From the first cross, one seedlings was retained because of its rambling quality and for its blue grey leaves and scented blooms. It first flowered in May 1995. The simple blooms are the same color as 'Mikado,' paling to white with age and held on corymbs. Unfortunately, it is

sterile so cannot be used in further crosses. It was released in 2007 under the name of 'Gunsho'.(photo above)

### ***Crosses using Rosa helenae***

Beginning again with seeds obtained from the Beijing Botanical Garden and choosing a particularly floriferous seedling that conformed to type, it was used as the male to cross with 'Rosabelle'. From among the resulting seedlings, I selected one with strong growth and large panicles of simple deep pink blooms, which was given the name 'Eridion' and put on the market in 2008. ( photo on right)





## ***The Second Generation***

All the first generation of crosses possess rambling traits, an excellent resistance to disease as well as a good color range, but none are reblooming. In order to achieve this, I continued with the descendants of 'Thierry Simon de Kergunic'. In 1990, I crossed this variety with 'Cornelia,' a hybrid of *Rosa moschata*. The following spring (1991) one of the roses stood out by blooming early, with rambling qualities as well as being remontant. These qualities were confirmed in the years that followed with strong branching. The rose possessed all the qualities that were aimed for in a reblooming Rambler. It was released onto the market and given the name of a landscaper from Angers, 'Rose Delacroix'. (photo on right)



In 1990, I crossed "Edénia" with a hybrid multiflora Rambler 'Ghislaine de Féligonde'. From among the resulting seedlings I selected one which, although not remontant, had strong growth, blooms in the shape of pompons and of the same color as its father. While not yet released, it has been given the study name "Les Pléiades". (photo on left)

My attention was drawn to a spontaneous seedling from the above cross as it was a miniature not exceeding 50 cm with blooms resembling those of its mother but very fertile and floriferous. In May 1996, I used it to pollinate 'Rose Delacroix', obtaining 24 seeds which were sown in the spring of 1997. One of the seedling was selected for its flowering, the absence of prickles and supple branches which enable it to be used either as a climber or as a shrub. It is the rose that I consider my loveliest achievement. Put on the market with the name of 'Belle de Sardaigne', (photo on right) it was awarded the prize of Best Rambler in 2011 by the *Société Nationale d'Horticulture* of France. Unfortunately, it is almost sterile, and the several seedlings from natural crosses have not been of interest.



Several varieties have descended from "Eridion". On May 12, 2004, "Eridion" was crossed with 'Danielle Arcucci' whose simple large blooms are poppy red. Two varieties resulting from this cross proved to be of interest as they were both remontant as well as climbers. Unfortunately, they are sterile which leads to a dead end for breeders. Nonetheless, after years of observation, one of them was put on the market this year and given the name 'Ludivine Massad' (photo on right). Its merits are a



strong development, without being invasive, perfect resistance to disease, blooms whose color is consistent as well as being remontant.



In 1992, I crossed "Souchon" ('Topaze' X hybrid of filipes) with 'Buff Beauty'. The results led to two distinct and different varieties: One has small development but blooms continually. The flowers are star shaped and butter yellow fading to white with age, but sterile. In 1999 it was released and named 'Michel Joye' (Photo on right). There also is a rambling variety that while being fertile is not remontant. The foliage is very shiny and the blooms emerge from a red bud to form a pompon shaped butter yellow bloom. (Photo top left)



### **Conclusion**



The results of 30 years of work are mixed. For the time being I have not been able to breed ramblers that rebloom as much as I had hoped, but along the road varieties have appeared that are interesting and which form the base for future work which will enable me to achieve my goal. The search continues...

(Photo of "Antvei" X 'Florence Delattre')

*This article was written expressly for BAON and translated from the French by the editors. Dominique Massad is one of the preeminent creators of new roses in France, including 'Kizuna,' a rose he donated to Japanese charities for the victims of the 2011 disaster. He is also a frequent writer on the onomastic ("names" of roses) history of the great French rose-breeding families.*

*He is a member of the WFRS's Breeders Club. His recent rose creations can be seen on the site: [petals-de-roses.com](http://petals-de-roses.com) and his email is: [dmassad@free.fr](mailto:dmassad@free.fr)*



## ***LOST GARDEN OF FUKUSHIMA***

***By MAYA MOORE***

I must warn you dear reader right off that I am not a rosarian. I know nothing about roses except taking delight in receiving them on special occasions, and I can't seem to help myself from sticking my nose into their faces to smell their fragrances whenever I pass them by. It is also no secret that I have a brown thumb. But what I do have is an eye for a story, for I was in the TV field for NHK (Japan Broadcasting Corporation) as a journalist and news anchor for over ten years.

It is, indeed, this visually news-oriented mindset that the following story landed on me like a bolt of lightening one early morning as my husband turned on the TV news (not my favorite way to start my day). But as the 6:30am special report unfolded, I had a sudden epiphany and knew, then and there, that a book *had* to be written.



My chance encounter with this story came as the second anniversary of that horrific tragedy of the Great Tohoku Earthquake that hit Japan on March 11th, 2011 was approaching. It was late February 2013, and I was painfully aware of the fact that I had been hopelessly helpless and helplessly ineffective in doing anything of significance for the tens of thousands of victims that were affected by the monstrous *tsunamis* that slammed onto the entire northern coast of Japan

and the nuclear meltdown of Fukushima Dai-ichi Nuclear Plant, which sent residents within a 30-kilometer radius of its site fleeing for their lives.

Mr. Katsuhide “Katz” Okada was one of these evacuees.

Okada is a rosarian *extraordinaire*, who owned a pay-to-enter garden extending across fifteen acres of pristine land in Futaba Town in Fukushima Prefecture. The garden boasted some 750 varieties of roses on 7,500 bushes. Amongst them were old and heritage roses that could not be found anywhere else in Japan. Such was the reputation of this singularly unique, privately owned oasis that 50 thousand rose lovers visited the Futaba Rose Garden every year. Ever since Okada came upon and fell in love with ‘Dr. Huey’ roses blossoming in the summer of his 17th year, his life became defined by roses. For half a century, he perfected his skills as a rose grower as well as a landscape artist. The garden he created was a must-visit for any photographer—professional or not—who possessed a passion for taking photographs of magnificent roses in this most beautiful setting.



In addition to the roses, there were several aspects of the Futaba Rose Garden that set it apart from all others in Japan. Firstly, Okada assiduously designed his garden to blend in with the natural surroundings, to feel as if the roses grew naturally from the land, which had mild hilly fluctuations with deep forests surrounding it. There was even a lake on its western side. Secondly, in contrast to the wild surroundings, the garden’s walkways were covered with carefully mowed lawns and were bordered with round-shaped conifers. Many who visited Okada’s garden commented how these rhythmical Lilliputian trees gave the garden a distinctly Japanese feel— like rock gardens found in temples around the country.



The third element that made the Futaba Rose Garden stand out was its climatic location. Its proximity to the sea (just 8 kilometers) and the high altitude provided just the right conditions for the roses to engender brilliant colors and plump petals that did not wilt or stick together in the rain or with morning dew. Unlike inland Fukushima Prefecture, cool night-temperatures even in midsummer and the lack of ferocious snowfall in winter, gave the roses just the kind of environment in which they could flourish. Above all, Okada's tireless love and care he lavished on these blooms reflected on every aspect of the garden. Since it opened in 1968, Okada pursued ways in which to showcase his garden gems. He created special pathways dedicated to wild and old roses, in addition to his original section that featured modern roses.

To my eternal regret, I never set foot in the Futaba Rose Garden, nor did I even know of its existence until after the disaster. But when I heard these descriptions of the garden in the TV report, my curiosity was piqued as I watched what was unfolding on the screen. The photographs of the original garden that were being shown astounded me with their beauty.

But what I saw next broke my heart. Photographs of a ruined garden filled the screen.



The Fukushima Dai-ichi Nuclear Plant exploded a day after being hit by a colossal *tsunami*. The residents, who had been repeatedly assured by the Tokyo Electric Power Company that the safety of the nuclear plant was such that it could withstand a crash from a jumbo jet, heard the emergency evacuation sirens go off at 10AM on March 12th. Okada and his wife Kazuko grabbed their dachshund Koko, and just a few belongings to get out of harm's way for, what they thought, would only be three or four days. The cruel reality is that they will never be able to live in Futaba again, and the rose garden will forever languish in a poisoned radioactive wasteland.

Mr. Okada met me in his temporary housing in the college town of Tsukuba soon after the TV reportage was aired. Okada seemed mildly surprised that I was able to track him down but was positively glacial about my wish to write a book about him. He didn't think it was a worthy subject! As I tried to convince him otherwise, I realized I was talking to a devastated man. It wasn't so much his outward appearance or his reluctance that gave me insight into his heart. It was his backyard, which was completely overrun with weeds. When I gently asked isn't it a luxury to have a yard in Japan and wouldn't he want to grow anything in it, he gave a look that I will never forget and quietly said, "I never want to grow anything in my life again." Those painful words shot through my heart and made me even more convinced that this story had to be told.

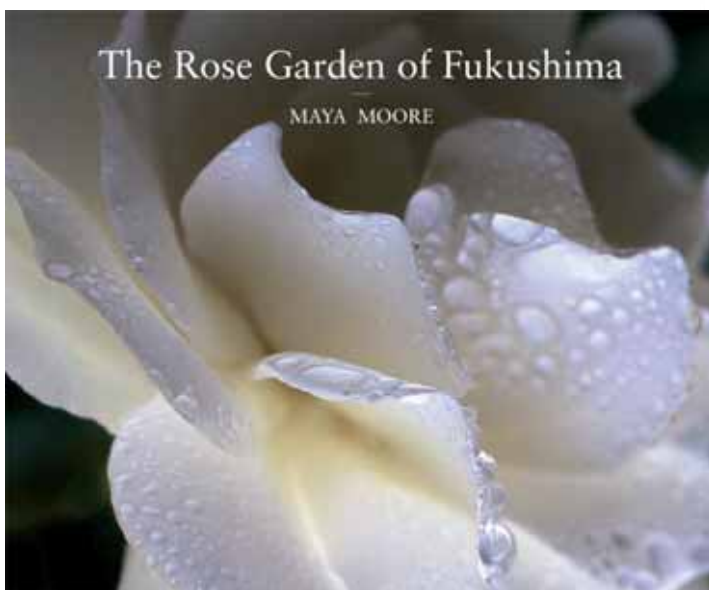
Okada's reticence and mistrust thankfully changed with one single act. The Yokohama Photographers of Roses, an amateur group of retirees that only focused their lenses on roses, were having an exhibition of Mr. Okada's roses in Sendai, a city also hit hard by the earthquake. Okada told me about the event when I first met him, but he made it implicitly clear that I am not to bother coming as it was so far away. Since it was a mere 2-hour bullet train ride, I decided to defy his orders and go anyway. If you can imagine a moment whereby an invisible wall of ice shatters into a thousand pieces, this was it. Okada grabbed both my hands and said, "I told you not to come!" But he was grinning from ear to ear. I still cherish that juncture of our relationship. This was late March 2013 and my book, "The Rose Garden of Fukushima," came out a year-and-a-half later in November 2014.

During the nearly three years (since February 2013) I have now known Mr. Okada, I have been in awe of his transformation and resilience. First of all, his former weed-strewn yard has become a miniature version of his garden – it is full of flowers and two wild roses: one that Okada found along the roadside in Tsukuba City, and one that he brought back from Fukushima that became radiation-free after he shook off the dirt and washed it down with water. Secondly, he is now involved in a volunteer project to grow a little rose section at a children's home in Tsukuba with the aim to teach kids about the lasting effects of patience and affection. And thirdly and most important of all, he is putting together vast amounts of evidence to get compensation from TEPCO, a long and arduous process. Its outcome will have substantial influence on where, when, or if ever Okada can start another garden somewhere else in Japan.

There is so much more I'd like to tell you about Mr. Okada with all his multitudes of feelings that come with small victories and endless defeats that he has got to face daily. But a story about a survivor of such unimaginable devastation cannot be told in one sitting.

Even Okada has told me himself that on some days, he would do quite well and feel almost happy. Then without warning, he would wake up in the middle of the night, shaking and paralyzed from fear about the future, until he hears the birds singing to announce the break of dawn. There is now hope he may create a new rose garden, not large initially, but just big enough to grow in size later as Okada's two sons inherit his passion and knowledge, just big enough to excite Okada, but modest enough to keep him restful at night. I have been fortunate to make acquaintance with many in Japan who know the rosarian side of Okada and who are very anxious to have him pass his expertise to a new generation of rose growers before it is too late. Okada will soon be 72 years old. He is a vital man, but still, age is a wall that grows steadily higher every year.

*This article was commissioned to commemorate the "lost" garden. All photographs are copyrighted. Maya Moore's book is "The Rose Garden of Fukushima," published in Japan in 2014 by Sekai Bunka Publishing, Inc. (ISBN: 978-4-418-14236-1), and available through Amazon. The format is hard cover, glossy photo-quality paper, dimensions 27x22 cms, the text by the author is in English; with site plans and more than 45 photographs of the gardens before and after and 76 uncaptioned photos of individual roses. Two media links about the garden are a special report in*



*English that was telecast in July 2015 on NHK's online program (<http://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/newsroomtokyo/aired/20150730.html>) and on Facebook "Fans of Fukushima Rose Garden." To send a message to Mr. Okada, readers can write to: [rosegardenfukushima@gmail.com](mailto:rosegardenfukushima@gmail.com) or send a postcard to: Mr. Katsuhide Okada, c/o Maya Moore, 3-56-5 Izumi, Suginami-ku, Tokyo, Japan 168-0063.*

*She will translate them for him to read.*





## ***HEIRLOOM ROSES FOR A HISTORIC PARK***

***By JUSTINE and LARRY LANDES***

The Heirloom Rose Garden in Potlatch, Idaho, was planted with approximately 40 roses in September of 2012 by Justine and Larry Landes. Located in the Scenic 6 Historical Park of Potlatch, the rose bed continues to thrive, despite the deer, occasionally strong winds, and the Pacific NW area forest fires. Located in Latah County in north central Idaho, Potlatch is 17 miles (27 kilometers) north of Moscow, Idaho, home of the University of Idaho. Also in our area are three other heirloom rose gardens: The University of Idaho Arboretum in Moscow, Idaho, Manito Park and the Northwest Rosarium, both in Spokane, Washington state.

Potlatch is in a Zone 5 temperature area. Typically we have long wet springs and can have frost well into June. Temperatures can be quite erratic, up and down, especially during the spring and fall seasons of the year. Potlatch is just above 2,500 feet (760 meters), so our summers evenings are usually quite cool, a good climate for heirloom roses. The winter snow and spring rainfall provide enough moisture to carry the roses through the summer without additional watering, once they have had several years to establish.

In our own, approximately ten-year-old, perennial and rose garden we have never experienced dieback from an alba, gallica, centifolia, moss or damask rose. That is also true of the heirloom roses we transplanted at the Scenic 6 Park, which is not far from our home.

Potlatch was founded and managed by the Potlatch Lumber Company Corporation in the

very early 1900s. *Company Town* (WSU Press, 1987) a history of Potlatch, notes that it is “at a bend in the Palouse River, two miles off U.S. Highway 95, in the shadow of Gold Hill....It is not a particularly picturesque place. Instead it projects an image of gritty working-class living. ... On Tuesday, September 11, with all testing completed, the Potlatch Lumber Company presented its new factory to the world...” The Palouse Republic newspaper sent a reporter too, author of the longest story his newspaper had ever run, two full pages, topped with a banner headline, reporting that the big mill was in full operation and “turning out lumber as though the ground on which it is located, no more than a stubble field ten months ago, had never known anything else than the vibration of the mill’s machinery in restless operation....” *Company Town* summed up the enterprise’s history thusly: “The machinery that began vibrating that day in September 1906 continued rumbling with few alterations for seventy-five years, until August 14, 1981, when the final shift finished its day’s work.” In 1954 the Potlatch Corporation gave up ownership of the town and it was incorporated; when the mill closed it was torn down. After lying vacant for nearly ten years, in the 1990s the property was turned over to the town of Potlatch, and the Scenic 6 Historical Park came into existence.

During January of 2012, Larry attended a meeting of the Potlatch City Council. He pitched his idea of a rose bed full of heirloom roses, explaining that the roses were tough, hardy and would fit the historical theme of the park. The council liked the idea and approved it.

In April of 2012, we potted up suckers from about 40 roses taken from some of our own heirloom roses and grew them through the summer at our home. Throughout the summer



of 2012, the future rose garden site was prepared. The grass and weeds were eradicated and the area was tilled on numerous occasions. In September 2012 the roses were transplanted into the prepared park area. The roses have since then thrived. We maintain the rose bed area ourselves, recently adding donated bark on the bed and a few more roses. We no longer

need to water the 40 original roses as they are well established. There is a walking/jogging trail that skirts the park area. People using the trail have commented on the idea and beauty of the rose garden. They also appreciate that each rose has been labeled.





'Rose de Rescht'



'James Mason'



'Mme Hardy'

### The list of roses planted thus far:

**ALBAS:** 'Celestial', 'Great Maiden's Blush' and 'Royal Blush'.

**BOURBON:** 'Louise Odier'.

**CENTIFOLIAS:** 'Paul Ricault', 'Cabbage Rose', 'The Bishop'.

**DAMASKS:** 'Mme Hardy', 'Celsiana' and 'Botzaris'.

**GALLICAS:** 'Complicata', 'Aniās Ségalas', 'Rosa gallica' 'Officianalis', 'Rosa Mundi', 'Alice Vena', 'Tuscany Superb', 'La Belle Sultane', 'James Mason', 'Alain Blanchard', 'Charles de Mills', 'Cardinal de Richelieu', 'Belle Isis', 'Omphale', 'Belle de Crécy', 'Duchesse de Buccleugh', 'Ville de Toulouse', 'Ipsilanté', 'Aimable Rouge', 'Nouvelle Pivoine', and 'Antonine d'Ormois'.

**HYBRID PERPETUALS:** 'Magna Charta', 'Rose de Rescht'

**MODERN HEIRLOOM BLOOMS:** 'Thérèse Bugnet', 'Constance Spry', 'William Baffin' and 'Escapade'.

**MOSS ROSES:** 'Maréchal Davoust', 'Blanche Moreau', 'Capitaine John Ingram', 'Henri Martin' and 'Common Moss'.

**PIMPINELLIFOLIAS:** 'Harison's Yellow', 'Scotch Rose' (prior 1600, given to us by the University of Idaho Arboretum, it might be 'Altaica'), 'Austrian Copper'.

**SPECIES:** *Rosa nutkana*.

*Justine and Larry Landes are retired elementary school teachers, having taught most of their careers in Potlatch. They are members of American Rose Society, Heritage Roses Northwest, Heritage Roses Group. Portions of the article appeared in: ARS and You, May, 2015 and Rain Drops: A Publication of the Rainy Rose Society, May 2015, Volume 26, Issue 4 and The Rose Letter, May 2015. The article was published in June by the HRNW. All photos are by the authors. Email contact: [oldroses@hughes.net](mailto:oldroses@hughes.net)*



## **HISTORIC ROSES IN FINLAND**

**By PIRJO RAUTIO**

We do not find records of historic roses grown in Finland from catalogues published before the 1840's. During the nineteenth century roses were mostly grown indoors in large pots. The relatively tender historic roses commonly grown in Central Europe cannot cope with our severe climate. Over a period of more than twenty years, I have tested the hardiness of many roses in Finland. Most of the varieties I have bought have proven too tender and have died out rapidly. The roses that flourish best with us belong to the *spinosissima*, *rugosa* and *gallica* groups. Some *alba*, summer damask and moss roses also perform satisfactorily. We prefer to grow roses on their own roots; if the above-ground parts are killed by a severe winter, the plant readily regenerates from the rootstock. Grafted roses should be planted quite deeply, with the graft union 15-20 cm below the soil surface.

Interest in rose growing took a leap forwards during the 1980's. The Finnish Rose Society was founded in 1989. Since this time, several members have actively traced roses surviving in old gardens and park plantings. Many interesting forms have been brought to light, but only a few historic roses have been satisfactorily identified.

Old gardens have revealed a surprising wealth of tough old roses. These comprise some extremely hardy varieties that have survived for decades without any kind of maintenance. Unfortunately, the names of many of these are lost. If a variety cannot be conclusively identified, it has been given a new name, often according to the location where it was found. As a rule, the founding roses are *spinosissimas* or *rugosas*, but some *centifolias* and *gallicas* have also turned up. Such roses almost invariably sucker quite freely, and this trait provides an easy means of propagating them. ( *In this article, F: is Finnish, Sw: is Swedish* )



***R. x francofurtana* F: kirkonruusu, Sw: kyrkgårdsros** ("churchyard rose") (*R. cinnamomea* x *gallica*) is fairly widespread in Finland, but it was generally overlooked prior to the late 1980's. In Sweden this rose is frequently planted in cemeteries, but in Finland it is usually found in the grounds of old manor houses. There are two distinct forms of "the churchyard rose": a southern and a northern one. DNA analyses indicate that the northern form has more *R. cinnamomea* influence than the southern form, and probably arose when this latter backcrossed to our native *R. cinnamomea*. The "churchyard rose" forms a lax, untidy bush 2-2,5 metres high with large, dark green leaflets. It blooms for about three weeks during July. The flowers are 7-8 cm in diameter, double, lightly scented, in lilac rose tints. The bush suckers freely, enabling this rose to be spread easily.

Another important francofurtana is the showy ***Rosa gallica 'Splendens'***, **F: valamonruusu**,



"Valamo rose". In Sweden this rose is called "Frankfurt". 'Splendens' is common throughout Finland, and performs well in northern regions of the country. The Finnish name "valamonruusu" arose as a result of a garbled translation: the French 'Rose Pavot' or 'Poppy Rose' became in Swedish "valmoros" which was misunderstood by Finnish speakers as pertaining to Valamo Monastery. Although the rose has no connection with the monastery, the name has stuck. On good soil this vigorous rose can grow into an upright bush up to 2 metres high. While in bloom from the end of June for about three weeks it is a splendid sight with an abundance of

glowing, carmine red, almost single blooms, with the golden stamens well displayed. A good crop of orange, pear-shaped hips follows in September. "Valamo" has spread from one garden to another by means of its freely produced suckers.

#### **'Minette', F: mustialanruusu**

Vibert, France 1819. Commonly found in old gardens in Southern and Central Finland, and in Sweden as well. 'Minette' is rare in Central Europe. The Finns have considered this rose as Finnish, the Swedes as theirs as suggested by the Swedish appellations *R. x suionum* and



*svearnas ros*. In Finland it is generally called "mustialanruusu", i.e., "the Mustiala rose", as this rose was sold and distributed by Mustiala Nursery during the early 20th century. Only during the mid-eighties did Swedish rosarians recognise this plant bearing the name 'Minette' in the collections at Sangerhausen. Vibert, who raised it, assigned his rose to the *centifolias*, but in Finland it is nowadays considered to be an *alba*. 'Minette' forms a rounded bush to a meter, which suckers freely. The foliage is light green, slightly glossy with leaflets

rounded towards the tips. It flowers through most of July. The beautifully scrolled flowers are medium in size, double, a warm blush pink, well scented. The buds tend to ball up in wet weather. A few large orange-tinted hips may set in warm seasons.

#### **'Blush Damask'**

This rose has been in cultivation since at least as far back as 1759. It may have arisen as a cross between a summer damask and a *gallica* rose. 'Blush Damask' has been found in several locations in Southern Finland. It has been variously called "Tähtitorninkatu", "Kotka", "Järvenpää"

etc. according to the locality where it has cropped up. Here it is generally classified as a centifolia. It forms a loosely growing shrub producing abundant suckers. The flower is flat, about 8 cm wide, fully double, often quartered, light pink towards the centre and paler towards the outer margins, strongly scented.

Most of the old roses found over the past few decades still remain unidentified, so they have been given Finnish names.



#### **“Pikkala” (centifolia x gallica)?**

“Pikkala” resembles the centifolia x gallica cross ‘Soleil Brilliant’ or ‘Hypathia’, which was raised prior to 1790 in the Netherlands. It was first found on the estate of Pikkala Manor, Southern Finland, and has later turned up in a few other, scattered localities in Southern Finland. It shares gallica and centifolia features. “Pikkala” suckers into a thicket and flowers rather late in the season, from about mid-July. The very double, strongly scented flowers are initially rounded in shape, strong

aniline pink with paler marbling, and later open wider to display golden stamens. The pear-shaped hips are set abundantly.

#### **“Litin Tiltu”**

Possibly a gallica x rugosa cross, named according to the single locality of Litti in Eastern Finland where it was found. It grows into a well-shaped shrub 1,5 –2 metres high and wide. The single, large and showy flowers are a bright carmine red, opening in July. It occasionally produces the odd bloom during September. A few hips may form.



#### **“Olkkala”**



This rose was found as an extensive thicket by an abandoned rail track close to Olkkala Manor, Southern Finland. The results of DNA analyses indicate that this rose is closely related to “the Valamo rose”, *R. gallica* ‘Splendens’. “Olkkala” is even more vigorous, growing to over 2 metres on good sites where it rapidly runs riot. It flowers for about four weeks from late June onwards. The medium-sized flowers are single, medium pink, paler towards the middle. In autumn the round, red hips and golden leaf colour are added attractions.



### **"Lilampi"**

A low-growing gallica to 80 cm with dark, leathery foliage. The light pink, rounded buds open in early July. The blooms are heavily double, medium pink in the centre and becoming paler towards the petal margins. The blooms also fade as they age.



### **"Herttoniemi"**



This blanda hybrid was found in the grounds of Herttoniemi Manor, Helsinki. It forms a vigorously growing shrub to 1,5 metres. The fragrant flowers are medium-sized, semi-double, pink but paler towards the margins. Very showy again in autumn when the foliage colours up a brilliant golden-yellow with small, red flattened-roundish hips.

### **"Toukoniitty"**

A 2 metre thicket with erect reddish stems found in Toukoniitty Park, Helsinki. The slightly double pink flowers with pale striations appear in July. In autumn the bush forms a showy spectacle with brilliant orange-red foliage and smallish flat hips.



## **SPINOSISSIMAS**

Finland is blessed with a wealth of extremely hardy spinosissima roses. They are trouble-free plants, not fussy about soil type, and easy to propagate by means of suckers. In Finland they bloom in June, in warm seasons often starting to open late in May. In Central Europe, spinosissimas began to fall out of favour before the middle of the nineteenth century as repeat-flowering roses came onto the market. Meanwhile, the most prolific breeders of spinosissimas, Robert Brown and Robert Austin, no longer continued their efforts to produce new varieties. It was not until 1850 that Karl-August Freundlich, head gardener of the Czar of Russia, started breeding spinosissima roses at Tsarkoje Selo, near St Petersburg. Finland was part of the Grand Duchy of Russia at this time, so several of the roses presently grown in Finland have most likely come down to us from this St Petersburg source.

Our beloved "midsummer rose" and a few other widely grown varieties were already cultivated here during the nineteenth century. The "midsummer rose" is common throughout the country. Pink flowered spinosissimas have been collected from the manor estates, rectories and even the farmsteads of Southern and Central Finland. Spinosissima roses are difficult to identify conclusively, as there are very few illustrations or depictions to refer to in old catalogues. We

have renamed many of them, usually according to the locality where they were found. I shall present some of the varieties most worth cultivating.

**Rosa spinosissima 'Plena', "juhannusruusu", "the midsummer rose"**



Its origin is still obscure. 'Plena' may originally have been an unnamed seedling that soon spread throughout Finland. In Sweden it is known as "Finlands vitros", and "Finnish White" can be found in some English-language catalogues. This rose is fairly common in Sweden and Estonia, but in other countries it is rare or unknown. "The midsummer rose" forms a very prickly, rather erect thicket to 1-1,5 metres, which tends to bow down with the sheer weight of blossoms. It flowers for about a fortnight from midsummer onwards. The flowers are

loosely double, yellowish towards the centre; the golden stamens are well displayed. The scent is strong and sweet. In autumn the foliage assumes dark coppery and violet tints. A few round, black hips are formed.

**"Ensi"**

Found growing in Ensi Park, Helsinki. It forms a slender-branched, rounded bush to about a metre in height. The leaves are small, greyish-green. The densely double flowers are only 4 cm in diameter, opening pale pink and soon fading to white. No hips are formed.



**"Juhannusmorsian"**

A lovely rose found at Elimäki, South-Eastern Finland. It forms an erect shrub to 1,5 metres. The large flower is loosely double, opening pink and later fading, strongly scented. The large, round reddish-brown hips are set prolifically.

**"Kerisalo"**

Found from Kerisalo, Joroinen, Eastern Finland. It gradually spreads into a shrub upto 2 metres with largish grey-green leaflets, possibly indicating cinnamomea influence. "Kerisalo" flowers later than other spinosissimas, beginning from early July. The beautiful flowers are large, loosely semi-double, lightly fragrant, of a delicate shade of salmon-pink.



### 'Papula'



This rose has taken its name from Papula Manor, which was close to the old town of Viipuri (Vyborg), now in Russian Karelia. It is recorded that this rose was brought to Papula from Northern Germany in the early 1860's. It was previously known as 'Staffa'. It may originally have been an unnamed seedling. 'Papula' has been found from several manor estates and old homesteads in Central and Southern Finland. It forms a rounded, dense-growing bush or thicket with small leaflets, to 1-1,5 metres. The cup-shaped, light pink flowers are fragrant, fading to almost white and displaying the golden stamens well. The hips are a dark wine-red. Very similar roses, typically called 'Double Blush', are found in all the Nordic countries and elsewhere in Europe. The best known is probably the Norwegian 'Husmoderrose'.

### "Ruskela"

This fine spinosissima was found in the early 1990's in a garden at Ruskela, Vihti, not far from Helsinki. It was later found in Vaalimaa, South-Eastern Finland and from near Vyborg, Russia. It may well originate from St Petersburg. It has been suggested that this rose may be 'Lady Hamilton', but we have not been able to confirm this. "Ruskela" grows vigorously into a spreading thicket up to 1,8 metres. The leaflets are larger than those of other spinosissimas and it flowers a little later than others in this class. The charming flowers are cup-shaped, later becoming flattened, 7 cm wide, pink, scented. A moderate crop of dark red, slightly elongated hips generally forms.



### 'Poppius' F: suviruusu



*R. pendulina? x spinosissima (R. x reversa)*, Sweden 1850

We are uncertain of the origins of this rose. Carl Stenberg, Director of the Swedish Agricultural Academy Experimental Station, dedicated this rose to his friend and principal, the Finnish-born Gabriel Poppius. 'Poppius' grows into widespread bush up to 2 metres with elegantly arching, almost thornless branches that steadily expands through suckering. It blossoms abundantly from midsummer onwards for about 3 weeks, starting a little later than 'Plena'. The smallish flowers are pink, cup-shaped, loosely double, and slightly scented. The round, brownish-red hips set abundantly.



### RUGOSAS

The Japanese rose, *Rosa rugosa*, had arrived in Europe by the end of the eighteenth century, but breeding work based on this species only got under way in St Petersburg during the 1860's. Around 1870 the Director of the Botanic Gardens of the St Petersburg Scientific Academy, Eduard Regel,



released a purplish-red flowered rose as '**Tsaritsa Severa**', 'Kaiserin des Nordens' (*R. davurica* x *a rugosa*). The nursery of Regel & Kesselring in St Petersburg sent plants to Finland, where the rose became known as 'Pohjolan Kuningatar', i.e., "Queen of the North". This rose has persisted in Finnish gardens further north as well. 'Kaiserin des Nordens' forms an elegant bush with rather small, fresh green, narrowly pointed leaflets. The smallish flowers are double, dark purplish-red. There is little or no reblooming and no hips are formed.



Various forms of the hybrid group ***Rosa x majorugosa*** (*R. majalis* x *rugosa*) can be found in scattered localities around Finland. One outstanding selection to be found in several sites is called "**Pietarinruusu**", i.e., "The St Petersburg Rose". This may well be one of Regel's roses, but this surmise cannot be confirmed. "The St Petersburg Rose" slowly develops into a large shrub more than 2 metres in height, with arching stems. Suckers are produced prolifically. The abundant flowering begins at the end of June. The flowers are rather large, violet-red, fading as they age. In autumn the shrub stands out as the foliage takes on glowing shades of orange-red. The display is further enhanced by the slightly flattened red hips.

Rugosa roses possess many excellent qualities: they are attractive, healthy, fragrant, very hardy, care-free and easy to propagate via suckers; they have a long flowering period and often show good autumn colouration. A frequent extra bonus is a good crop of ornamental and edible hips. Despite all these sterling characteristics, these roses are not universally popular, and seem not to be generally favoured in Central Europe. In Finland, their hardiness has allowed them to survive in old gardens for long periods. As with the spinosissimas, several of these rugosas we have failed to identify, so we have found our own names for them.

#### "**Ristinummi**" (*R. rugosa* x *spinosissima*?)

A rare find among rugosa hybrids, which may have originated in Russia. It was found growing along a railway embankment at Ristinummi Station, near Järvenpää, Southern Finland. "Ristinummi" forms a vigorous and rapidly spreading, healthy, erect thicket to 2,5 metres. The large, single flowers are a light shell-pink, yellowish near the centre. A moderate crop of dark red, rounded hips is usually set. The spinosissima influence confers a brick-red or wine-red autumn colouration of the foliage, and there is often a light repeat blooming in September.



#### "**Katri Vala**"



A beautiful founding from Katri Vala Park, Helsinki. This rose forms a 2 metre high, freely suckering shrub. The sizeable flowers are nicely doubled, mauve-pink, strongly scented. Few hips are set.

#### "**Martta**"

Found near Oulu. A low-growing, suckering shrub that starts flowering as early as mid-June. The flowers are semi-double, violet red. The flattish hips are freely produced.





**'Neuvoksenruusu'** ("the Counsellor's rose") (*R. palustris* x *rugosa*) and **'Neuvoksettarinruusu'** ("the Lady Counsellor's rose"), *R. x spaethiana*, 'Spek's Improved'. These roses have persisted in old gardens. They were previously used as rootstocks and have survived long after the tender scion perished. They grow into giant shrubs 1,5 to 1,8 m high with narrow, greyish-green leaflets. The flowers of the "male counsellor" are quite large, single, rose-tinted. His female counterpart carries semi-double flowers.

### **"Pappilan Neito"**

Found in North Finland in Leskelä village, Piippola commune in local gardens and the local parsonage. It grows into a 1,5m bush. The flowers are semi-double, pure white, scented. The large hips are set prolifically, nicely complementing brownish-yellow autumnal colouration.



Several old French near-rugosas are quite widely grown in Finland, including: 'Blanc Double de Coubert', Cochet-Cochet 1892; 'Belle Poitevine', Charles Bruant 1894; 'Souvenir de Philémon Cochet' 1899; 'Roseaie de l'Haÿ', Cochet-Cochet 1901.

In Germany, *R. rugosa* was often crossed with relatively tender roses such as the hybrid teas, so that the resulting hybrids are not hardy enough for our conditions: 'Conrad Ferdinand Meyer', Dr. Müller 1899; 'Dr. Eckener', Berger 1928.

Not content with growing only these old, historic roses, over the last two decades we Finns have been breeding new varieties suited to our harsh climatic conditions. The breeding team of Joy, Kahila and Kangaspunta have released several fine varieties: Spinosissima hybrid 'Tove Jansson'; Rugosa hybrids 'Sointu' and 'Sävel'; and modern shrub roses 'Ilo', 'Loisto' and 'Lumo'. On my own account, I have specialised in further developing the gallica roses. The following have become popular: 'Asta', 'Auli', 'Charles Baudelaire' and 'Merveille'. Various damask roses, rugosas and spinosissimas are also available in some nurseries.

*Further detail on Finland's roses can be found from Pirjo Rautio's home-page ([www.simolanrosario.com](http://www.simolanrosario.com)) and from the website of the Finnish Rose Society ([www.ruususeura.fi](http://www.ruususeura.fi)). This article was a presentation made by Pirjo Rautio in June 2013 at the International Heritage Rose Conference in Sangerhausen, Germany. The translation of the text from Finnish is by Peter Joy. The photographs are from the author Pirjo Rautio.*

# ***A ROSE ISLAND IN THE INDIAN SKY***

***By MIA GRÖNDAHL***



I still cannot believe it! I am in the same company as Madonna, Ingrid Bergman and Queen Elisabeth! I have become a rose. One could actually say, I have been reborn in India.

It all began in Kolkata. I was visiting the Botanical Garden early in 2008, searching for the origin of 'Rose Edouard', when I asked the Director if he knew any rosarian in India that might be of help. It was obvious he did not have to think twice; he quickly penned two names and their address on a piece of paper: Girija and Viru Viraraghavan, 'Hillview', Kodaikanal. Regretfully, we did not meet that time. I looked up Kodaikanal on the map, a very small dot almost in the center of south of India. I sent Girija an e-mail from Kolkata and when I got her reply, I still remember how it triggered my curiosity, and, how I so wished I could have made some changes to my itinerary and added more days to my stay in India: "We live in Kodaikanal, which is a hill station and grow many old roses, as my husband is a rose breeder working with *Rosa clinophylla* (the only tropical rose species in the world) and *R. gigantea*, also an Indian species. Love to hear from you again. Girija"

It took me nearly seven years to return to India. At the end of 2014, after the Regional Convention of the WFRS in Hyderabad, I finally found myself in the backseat of a taxi, leaving the hot plains and moving up into the mountains, terrified by the steep slopes, but I closed my eyes and comforted myself by thinking of how close I was to fulfilling my dream, while the car climbed the narrow serpentine road leading to the misty rooftop of the mountains and my final destination: Kodaikanal.



It was already late afternoon when I arrived at the entrance of 'Hillview', the old heritage house that has been the home and workplace of Girija and Viru since 1980. They were out to greet me, together with Kim,



their lion-coloured dog that follows Viru's every step, and showed me to an impressive curved flight of stone steps leading up to the more than 100-year-old stone house and its terraced garden.

Many people dream about changing their lives into something more exciting and fulfilling. Viru and Girija made their dream real. In their early forties they decided to dedicate their lives to the queen of flowers and moved from Hyderabad with their collection of rose plants to the better climate at Kodaikanal. Viru's early retirement from a secure and prestigious government position came as a surprise to his colleagues: "It was difficult for them to understand that emotional security is much more important than material security. But a good friend, who was a keen rose grower, told me point blank: 'Viru, you are wasting your time in the civil service.' "



After their life-altering move to Kodaikanal, Viru was able to fully concentrate on his rose-breeding program; and Girija, who holds a master in history, set out to explore the history of the rose in India from ancient times. But first they had to do something about the garden, which had been neglected for decades: "It was a real challenge to develop a

garden on this rocky and very steep land where most of the soil had been washed away by the monsoon rains. We planted the roses we had brought with us from Hyderabad and made flower beds wherever there was soil, and laid out paths to join the scattered plantings," says Girija, summarizing the result after 35 years with a happy laughter: "I think one can say that 'Hillview' is a uniquely eccentric garden, matching the personality of the owners!"



As we continued our walk up the old flight of stone steps to the house, surrounded by a mass of greenery growing on the sunny slope, interspersed here and there with dots of color from camellias, hibiscus and roses, I felt my excitement grow with each step. I was not only entering a unique garden, I was for the first time going to meet the many children of Viru and Girija—their intriguing roses.



*"Sunset colors" are Viru and Girija's favorites. Viru is using this seedling 'Gemini' X 'GoldenThreshold' to introduce carotenoids pigment into the chinensis/gigantea group.*

Viru's interest in roses began at an early age. He was only 12-13 years old, but he still remembers the exact moment it happened. Viru was visiting Coonoor Hill Station, in the Nilgiri Mountains, together with his family. Viru's father, who was the Director of Agriculture in the Madras State, was allowed to spend some days every summer in the guesthouse of Sim's Park, the botanical garden in the heart of Coonoor. "One morning, I happened to look out at the enclosed rose garden and was mesmerized at the sight of a golden rose glowing in the sunlight." Viru had fallen in love with 'Julien Potin', a hybrid tea, bred by Joseph Pernet-Ducher in 1927.

Ever since the hybrid teas started to conquer India and the rest of the world, they have been much loved and appreciated for their large and well-formed flowers, which seldom leave the bush empty of roses during its long, repeat-flowering season. But the love for hybrid teas in India and other countries with hot climates is a complicated affair. It is a love that comes with a price.

When, in December 2014, I visited the Indira Gandhi Rose Garden in Hyderabad, I was informed by the head gardener that he had to spray the roses once a week with several combination sprays of fungicides and insecticides, just to maintain the rose garden. To me, this was shocking news, thinking about the environmental impact. Or, as Viru reminds us, citing the Indian pioneering rose hybridizer Bhattacharji, who in the 1930s said: "rose growing is for the pleasure of raising flowers under normal care."

"You should not have to use a whole army of chemicals", says Viru, who, in his younger years, obtained a master in chemistry. "It's not sustainable to treat roses as if they were patients in a hospital's intensive care unit. The pesticide lobby has managed to manipulate people to take this wrong approach. But there are simple alternatives, such as baking soda. It's useful to most of the problems that can befall a rose." Viru's deep love for the rose compelled him, in companionship with Girija, to search for a solution to these problems. They found the answer in two wild roses that grow in India, *R. clinophylla* and *R. gigantea*. After some adventurous rose-hunts, the couple was able to bring these roses' disease-resistant genes into the breeding program, where they are crossed with healthy garden roses.



*Seedling of gigantea*



*Rosa clinophylla*

Most rose gardens have been created to please people. But Viru and Girija's garden is also meant to please the roses while they take part in Viru's successful hybridization. As we walk along the narrow paths, roses appear everywhere: seedlings in plastic bags are sitting in rows on the railed-in porch, potted roses fill up the borders and parade along the pathways. The roses that have been put in the ground form huge bushes, covering pergolas, escaping up into the tree tops or finding a resting place on a roof top. It is a garden culture respecting nature.

We stop in front of 'Rebecca's Choice', a lovely light pink rose where wilderness, *R. gigantea*, meets an old British tea rose, the pink 'Mrs. B. R. Cant', cultivated but disease resistant. The crossing, which can easily be viewed at a "table-top" pergola, did not at first catch Viru's interest. But, as always, in the spirit of the teamwork of the Viraraghavans, Viru consulted Girija. "Girija pointed at a single rose and said: 'See how beautifully the petals are reflexed; it looks like a butterfly in flight!'," says



'Rebecca's Choice'

Viru, and adds with a smile: "Her opinion is often somewhat different from my own, which I highly value." The flowers of 'Rebecca's Choice' have that silky, see-through quality that Viru tries to achieve in his crossings. Sustainability has to come with beauty.

"It's also important that the rose looks beautiful when it's not in bloom, and this is where the foliage comes into the picture", says Viru, who has started to bring *Rosa laevigata*, known for its beautiful foliage, into his breeding program.



Most *R. giganteas* are not adapted to small gardens.

'Hillview's' magnificent *giganteas* are a stunning sight. These vigorous ramblers combine strength and elegance; their hooked trunks are as big as a man's upper arm and the silky flowers together with their fine leaves, oblong and elegant, add to the giant's delicate appearance. I fall in love with a pink crossing between *Rosa gigantea* and a miniature rose, which hadn't been given a name. Very few gardens can host such "super-roses", so most of Viru's *gigantea* crossings will be sized down by further hybridization, until they have become more manageable bushes.

"Smell this!" says Girija as she bends a branch down showing me a single white rose with a beautiful yellow stamen. The flower belongs to *Rosa clinophylla*, the other rose species that is helping Viru to create sustainable roses. The flower smells like an open bottle of nail-polish remover. Crossed with other roses the odor becomes pleasant and distinctive, as in the case of the shrub rose 'Pat Henry'. The importance of *R. clinophylla* lies in its ability to stand the worst rose-growing climates of heat and humidity and still look fresh and healthy, with green foliage year around.



A normal day for the Viraraghavans starts with a morning walk, followed by work. Viru waters the roses and, in the hybridizing season, makes the crosses, while Girija is responsible for the labeling and recording of the day's crosses. Work in the garden does not end until the sun has disappeared behind the rose-clad cypress trees. The chilly evenings on the hill are spent near the fireplace reading books and studying roses and other horticultural subjects, as well as writing their own articles about roses.

"It is surprising how much reading has to be done if one is to keep up to date in the rose world!" says Girija.

Girija is currently researching the locations of *Rosa clinophylla* in the south of India. She has found an old book pointing to a place not very far from Kodaikanal. Viru has, up until now, only worked with clinophylla clones from northern India, and the possibility to add more genetic material into the hybridization is exciting. Next February the couple will set out for this new rose-hunt! Viru, for his part, has finally —after 35 years—received a plant of the rose he first fell in love with, the hybrid tea 'Julien Potin'. The plan is to introduce its yellow color into the gigantea and clinophylla breeding lines. It's obvious that the dedicated rosarians at 'Hillview' have no time to retire; their love for roses is the kind that doesn't take a rest.



*'Mia Gröndahl'*

When I came back to Sweden I received a message on Facebook from Girija: "We have a request of you. You know the miniature rose x gigantea you liked. We have recently put a pic on Facebook (you also took pics of it). It is in full bloom and looking really lovely. May we name it for you?"

Suddenly the winter around me felt less cold. I imagined 'Mia Gröndahl', my rose alter-ego, showing her pretty flowers to Viru and Girija in their peaceful garden at 'Hillview'; it somehow felt like I was still there. Or maybe it is Viru and Girija's garden that has never left me.

*Mia Gröndahl is a Swedish writer and photographer, sharing her life between Cairo and Sweden. Mia's passion for roses began 30 years ago. She is the founder of the rose heritage society 'Österlenrosor,' and has documented the old garden roses in the beautiful area of Österlen, which is situated in the south-east of Sweden, by the Baltic Sea. Mia's own garden 'Killahusets Trädgård' has one of the biggest collections of ramblers in Sweden and is open to the public in the summer. She can be contacted through her website: [www.miagrondahl.com](http://www.miagrondahl.com). Viru and Girija's e-mail is: [veerugij9517@gmail.com](mailto:veerugij9517@gmail.com)*

## ***IN MEMORIAM: ANDRÉ EVE***

*When we learned of the death of André Eve who died on August 2, 2015, at 83 years of age, it was felt as the passing of one of the true giants among French rose breeders, whose passion for historic and species roses inspired generations of rosarians and rose lovers. Since then dozens of obituaries and homages, both from his peers and garden publications in France as well as other countries have focused on both his deep knowledge and love for roses, but also extolling his many personal qualities and capacity for deep friendships. [See WFRS August 2015 Letter.] Rather than publish a long eulogy here, we found the following short memoire from a client and friend moving and evocative. The editors.*

### ***"To André Eve, a Love of Roses***

"Having placed a phone order for rambling roses, I was most surprised when in November 1981, they were delivered by no less a person than André Eve himself. He



explained that he wanted to discover Alsace and the "Alsaciennes". A twinkle in his eyes, curious about everything and everyone but more than ever in love with roses, he had brought with him to Villa Rosa the following ramblers: 'Francis Lester', 'Paul's Himalayan Musk' and 'Sir Cedric Morris'."

"That memorable year marked the beginning of André's annual visits, often three a year, when he renewed his contacts with the many passionate Alsace gardeners, tasted seasonal dishes and sipped his favorite *Gewurtztraminer* wines, the flavor of which he said reminded him of heritage roses. In the intervening years my pergola and old trees have

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soften their contours under the sheer weight of the exuberance of these stunning roses, clematises planted at their feet as André had suggested. To commemorate our friendship, twenty years later he dedicated a rose to 'Villa Rosa', a lovely climber which blooms well into December and survives our harsh winters."

"André drew his last breath on the Second of August this year. His Alsace friends who were able to pay him a group visit in May felt honored as always to be with him. Now, I imagine him in the garden of St. Peter, sitting along side another famous gardener André Le Nôtre, in deep discussion regarding his wish to create a 'Rose de la Genèse' and to plant it in Saint Michael's Square."

*Anne-Rose Haas is the owner of the Hotel Villa Rosa in Trois Epis in the Vosges mountains above Colmar, Alsace. She was also instrumental, along with André Eve, in the creation of a public rose garden in the village center. [email: contact@villarosa]. In 1991, André Eve was a founding member of the Association "Roses Anciennes en France," whose bilingual annual Bulletin in its first two issues carried an excellent article by and about him titled "Why Old Roses?" which is being reprinted in its December 2015 issue [infos@rosesanciennesenfrance.org].*

*The photograph of André Eve is courtesy of Pierre Nessmann, TV presenter and editor of the Rustica magazines [www.rustica.fr], and the photographer Philippe Perdereau who retains all rights.*



## **WFRS 2016 REGIONAL CONVENTION AND 14TH INTERNATIONAL HERITAGE ROSE CONFERENCE BEIJING, CHINA, MAY 18-23, 2016**

The 2016 Beijing Conference promises to be one of WFRS's most exciting, with sixteen lectures scheduled, daily tours to historic sites and rose gardens in and around Beijing-Daxing, special evening programs and dinners, and several pre-convention and post-convention tours throughout China. The convention online site is now open, and WFRS members are encouraged to make your reservations soonest since the numbers will be limited: [www.rosebeijing2016.org](http://www.rosebeijing2016.org)

The inauguration will take place during the Convention of a newly-constructed Rose Museum, housed in extraordinary architecture, with numerous exhibits ranging from roses in history to roses of the future, and with one section devoted to the WFRS, its past and present. The Museum curators are making a special call for exhibit items, as donations or loans. We refer you to the convention site for detailed information on the type of items they seek.

### **AFTER BEIJING, A JAPANESE ROSE GARDEN TOUR**

The NPO Rose Culture Institute has laid out a rose garden tour program in Japan, from May 29 to June 2, 2016. The program features visits to five gardens which obtained the WFRS Awards of Garden Excellence. Also included are rose gardens in Gifu and the Kansai (Western Japan) area, which were not visited during the WFRS International Heritage Rose Conference in Sakura in 2012. This is organized by Katsuhiko Maebara, of the NPO. The number of participants is limited. For details on the exact schedule and costs, and the illustrated program with photographs, please visit the site: [k.maebara@kusabueroses.jp](mailto:k.maebara@kusabueroses.jp), or contact The NPO Rose Culture Institute, phone/fax: (81) 43-486-9356.

### **REGIONAL CONFERENCE IN URUGUAY, NOVEMBER 7-9, 2016**

We are informed that the organizers of the Regional Rose Conference to be held at Punta de Este in Uruguay, November 7-9, 2016, have extended their "early bird discount" to January 31, 2016. Please visit their site for complete information on their program's various associated tours and costs: [www.asociacionuruguayadelarosa.com](http://www.asociacionuruguayadelarosa.com)

### **WFRS "ROSE NEWS"**

A few receiving this issue of BAON may not know of our "sister/brother" publication "World Rose News" which is the "official" bulletin of the World Federation of Rose Societies with extensive coverage of WFRS activities, conferences and rose trials. Like BAON, WRN is gratis on-line, and our latest issues are always available to read or download from the WFRS site: [www.worldrose.org](http://www.worldrose.org)